

• COLORADO RIVER •  
**AQUEDUCT NEWS**

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. VII.

AUGUST 25, 1940

No. 8



Construction work underway on the Glendale-Burbank feeder.

# **COLORADO RIVER AQUEDUCT NEWS**

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

306 WEST THIRD ST.  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

*Published monthly in the interest of  
Field and Office Workers on the Colorado  
River Aqueduct, and for the information  
of all other citizens of the Metropolitan  
Water District.*

Vol. VII August 25, 1940 No. 8

## **Board Set New M.W.D. Tax Rate At 49 Cents**

On the recommendation of its Finance Committee, the District's Board of Directors on August 16 fixed the District's tax rate for the forthcoming fiscal year at 49 cents, a rate of one cent less than the 50 cents per \$100.00 that had been anticipated.

According to the breakdown of expenditures submitted to the Board, only 5 cents of the new tax rate is to be used to meet the District's general and maintenance costs, the remainder of the levy being required to meet interest charges on bonds sold to finance the construction of the aqueduct and to meet fixed Boulder Dam power charges being made by the United States Government.

The new tax rate represents a 7-cent increase over the rate for the current year. This is due to the fact that large additional aqueduct bond funds have been invested during the past year in bringing to completion the initial development of the Colorado River Aqueduct. Due to the fact that the system is not scheduled to begin operations until next year, there has as yet been no revenue from water sales.

A number of weeks ago officials of the District were instrumental in securing the adoption by Congress of legislation authorizing a reduction in the rates paid by the M.W.D. for Boulder Dam power. This rate reduction has not yet become effective, however, and as a result this future saving could not be reflected in the new tax rate. It is expected that this rate reduction will prove to be effective as an offset to the 1941 tax rate.

District cities are not required to meet their levy in the form of taxes, and a number of the member cities are meeting all or a part of their levies with funds from municipal revenues thereby reducing the rate paid by individual taxpayers.



American Concrete and Steel Pipe Co. crews place the first section of pipe on the Glendale-Burbank feeder of the Distribution System at the intersection of Glenoaks Blvd. and Glendale Ave.

## **- DIRECTORY -**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

W. P. Whitsett, Chairman  
Franklin Thomas,  
Vice-Chairman  
S. H. Finley, Secretary  
Anaheim.....E. P. Hapgood  
Beverly Hills.....Arthur Taylor  
Burbank.....James L. Norwood  
Compton.....Warren W. Butler  
Fullerton.....Walter Humphreys  
Glendale.....Herman Nelson  
Long Beach.....William M. Cook  
Los Angeles.....Otto J. Emme  
Los Angeles.....Perry H. Greer  
Los Angeles.....Joseph Jensen  
Los Angeles.....D. W. Pontius  
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Los Angeles.....Victor H. Rossetti  
Los Angeles.....W. P. Whitsett  
Pasadena.....Franklin Thomas  
San Marino.....John H. Ramboz  
Santa Ana.....S. H. Finley  
Santa Monica.....Arthur P. Creel  
Torrance.....Charles T. Rippy  
J. M. Luney, Controller  
Ira R. Pontius, Treasurer

### **GENERAL STAFF**

General Manager and Chief  
Engineer.....F. E. Weymouth  
Asst. Chief Engineer.....  
.....Julian Hinds  
General Counsel.....James H. Howard  
Asst. General Counsel.....  
.....Arthur A. Weber  
Chief Elec. Engineer.....  
.....J. M. Gaylord  
Asst. to Gen. Mgr.....  
.....Don J. Kinsey  
Asst. Controller, G. D. Smith  
Asst. Treasurer, C. G. Olson  
Secy. to Gen. Mgr.....  
.....Elisabeth von Hagen

### **DIVISION ENGINEERS**

Distribution.....R. B. Diemer  
Transmission.....Robt. N. Allen  
Maintenance.....W. J. Neale  
Field. Supt. Pumping.....  
.....T. T. Walsh

### **SUPERINTENDENTS**

(Main Aqueduct Tunnels)  
San Jacinto Tunnel, District  
Force Acct., B. C. Leadbet-  
ter, Gen. Supt.

Softening and Filtration Plant  
Griffith Company, Weymouth  
Crowell Co., Project Manager,  
Olen Evans, Field Supt.

**Waste Water Disposal Line**  
United Concrete Pipe  
Corporation

**Schedule 29P**  
American Concrete &  
Steel Pipe Co.

**Schedule 30SC**  
J. F. Shea Co., Inc.

**Hollywood Tunnel**  
J. F. Shea Co., Inc.

**Schedule 31P**  
United Concrete Pipe Corp.

**Schedules 32CI, 33CI**  
Artukovich Bros.

**Schedules 34P, 35P, 36P**  
American Concrete & Steel  
Pipe Co.

**Schedule 37SC**  
Macco Construction Co.

**Schedules 38SC, 39A**  
Werner & Webb

**Schedule 40A**  
Warren Southwest, Inc.

## Annexation Terms Given to Five South Coast Areas

Five Orange County South Coast areas, including the city of Laguna Beach, all of which have made application for annexation to the Metropolitan Water District in order to secure urgently needed supplies of Colorado River Aqueduct water, were notified on August 19 by the M.W.D. Board of Directors that their applications will be given consideration.

In setting forth the terms under which these five South Coast areas may be accepted as parts of the Metropolitan Water District, the Board stated that it would first be necessary for these areas to organize themselves into one territorial unit of a type which legally may join the District.

The areas will further be required to pay to the M.W.D. a sum of money equal to the total of tax contributions which they would have paid had they been parts of the District since its organization.

South Coast areas which have made official requests for annexation to the Water District are Laguna Beach Water District, South Coast County Water District, Newport Beach Irrigation District, Newport Heights Irrigation District, and the Fairview Farms



A section of the Santa Monica lateral is placed across the new Cahuenga Freeway now under construction.

Water Company. Tax records reveal that these areas taken together represent an assessed valuation of approximately \$9,000,000.

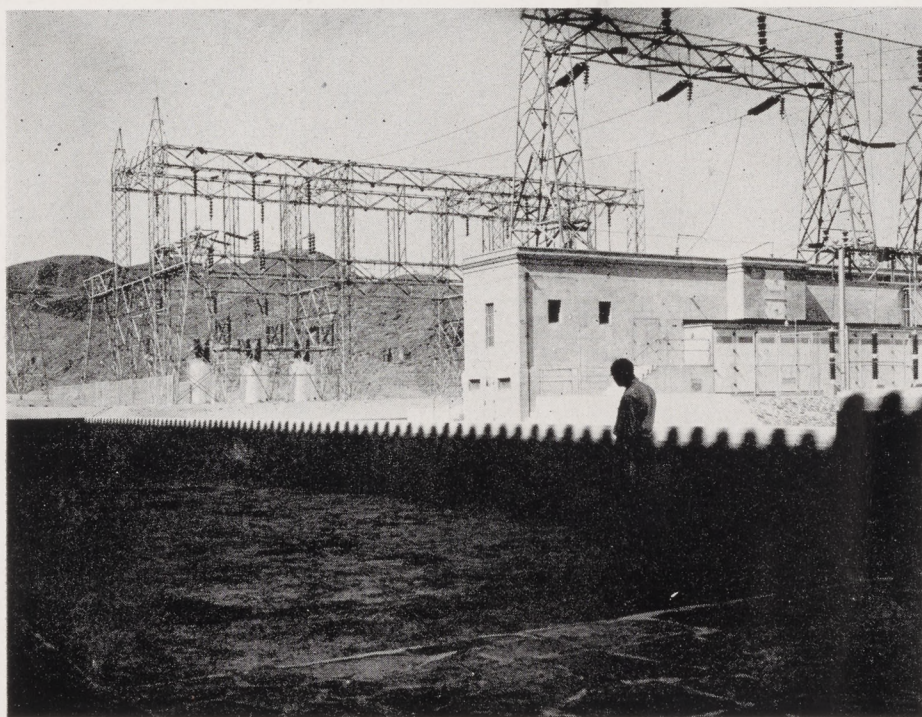
In outlining the terms under which the southern areas may be taken into the M.W.D., the District Board stated that

a territorial unit including these five areas would be served with softened and filtered Colorado River Aqueduct water delivered to a point at or near Corona Del Mar. The proposed annexation district would be charged the same rate for this water as that applied to other District cities, and would pay District taxes on the same basis as the present member cities.

### BIDS CALLED FOR ON ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES

Bids will be opened on September 4 for the construction of a 200 acre-foot capacity reservoir to be known as the Orange County reservoir and which will be an operating structure on the feeder line being built to supply water to Fullerton, Anaheim, and Santa Ana. The reservoir will be constructed of a rolled fill embankment with a gunite lining, and will be located on the Orange County feeder approximately one-half mile northeast of the city of Brea.

Also on September 4, bids will be opened for the construction of a pipe line extending the distribution system within the city limits of Long Beach. This line, Schedule 41, to be built under Specifications No. 342, will be 0.99 mile long. Bids are being called for on lock-joint steel cylinder reinforced precast concrete pipe, and on welded steel pipe with gunite exterior coating and spun mortar lining.



The tile roof at the Gene Pumping Plant cast this interesting shadow pattern on the wall outside the motor room of the plant.

# MONTHLY REPORT REVIEWS ACTIVITIES ALONG THE AQUEDUCT LINE

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager F. E. Weymouth, filed with the Board of Directors in August, covering work done in July.)

## Legal Division

**Legislation**—The Boulder Canyon Project Adjustment Act; the Sodium Lands bill, authorizing the lease to the District of public lands for the extraction of sodium chloride for water-conditioning purposes; and the Indian Lands bill for the transfer to the United States of lands held in trust for use by the Chemehuevi Indians, as part of the Parker Reservoir project, were approved by Congress July 8, 1940.

## Miscellaneous Activities Division

During the month of July, 256 labor applicants were cleared for work on the aqueduct. Of this number, 17 were made available for force account work and 239 were made available for aqueduct contractors. A total of 741 persons was interviewed.

## Main Aqueduct

**Salvage Division**—Stock appraised and transferred to the Banning salvage yard during July amounted to \$4,382.65, making a total to date of \$2,358,480.58. Sales during July amounted to \$17,759.67 and transfers to other District features to \$1,043.77. Total salvage disbursements to date amount to \$1,423,025.42.

**Parker Dam Power Plant**—Under the Clyde Wood contract the excavation of the four penstock tunnels was completed except for minor trimming. Excavation of the forebay was 85 per cent completed and excavation of approximately 4,000 cubic yards of rock from the power house foundation was started. The contractor for furnishing concrete aggregates erected his plant. The Bureau of Reclamation forces constructed shop and warehouse buildings to replace the fire loss of June 28.

## Civil Engineering Division

**Design**—Specification drawings were completed of the Morris Reservoir connection and of sections and structures on lateral extensions to Burbank, Compton, Long Beach, and Torrance.

**Specifications**—Seven sets of specifications were completed, including No. 340 covering 3.8 miles of lateral pipe line extensions in the cities of Burbank, Compton, Torrance, and Long Beach. Bids were opened on four sets of specifications, including No. 335 for the construction of the Orange County feeder.

**Hydrography**—Assistance was given the Colorado River Commission of the State of California in its studies of Colorado River matters, and was continued to the U. S. Soil Conservation Service in its investigation of ground water conditions in the Beaumont and San Jacinto basins.

## Distribution Division

**Field and Office Engineering**—The flagging of the Orange County feeder location was completed and referencing of alignment points was continued. Levels were run and stakes set on the Glendale-Burbank line. Alignment was checked on the Santa Monica feeder and construction stakes set for the Ca-huenga Freeway crossing. Additional surveys were made for the Morris Reservoir connection, and alignment, improvement, and substructure surveys for connections to Burbank, Compton, Long Beach, and Torrance were completed.

**Contract Work**—The Griffith Company operations on the softening and filtration plant continued. The United Concrete Pipe Corporation is fabricating centrifugally spun concrete pipe for the waste water line. The J. F. Shea Company, Inc., averaged slightly better than 5.5 feet per shift, in each heading of Hollywood Tunnel, and has begun work at Verdugo Wash on Schedule 30SC.

## Electrical Engineering Division

**Pumping Plants**—The pumping plants were operated on a construction schedule during the month to supply water for testing and conditioning aqueduct structures. The installation of the 230-kv lightning arresters was completed. A location was selected and estimate prepared for extension of the District telephone system from Lake Mathews to La Verne.

## Purchasing Division

A total of 398 purchase orders was issued covering purchases amounting to approximately \$28,800.00. Carload forwardings for the month included 21 cars of cement, one of general merchandise, one of machinery and one of steel wire mesh.

## Accounting and Costkeeping

The total cost of the work accomplished to July 31, 1940, was \$184,707,797.88.



Director Joseph Jensen

## New L. A. Director Takes Office

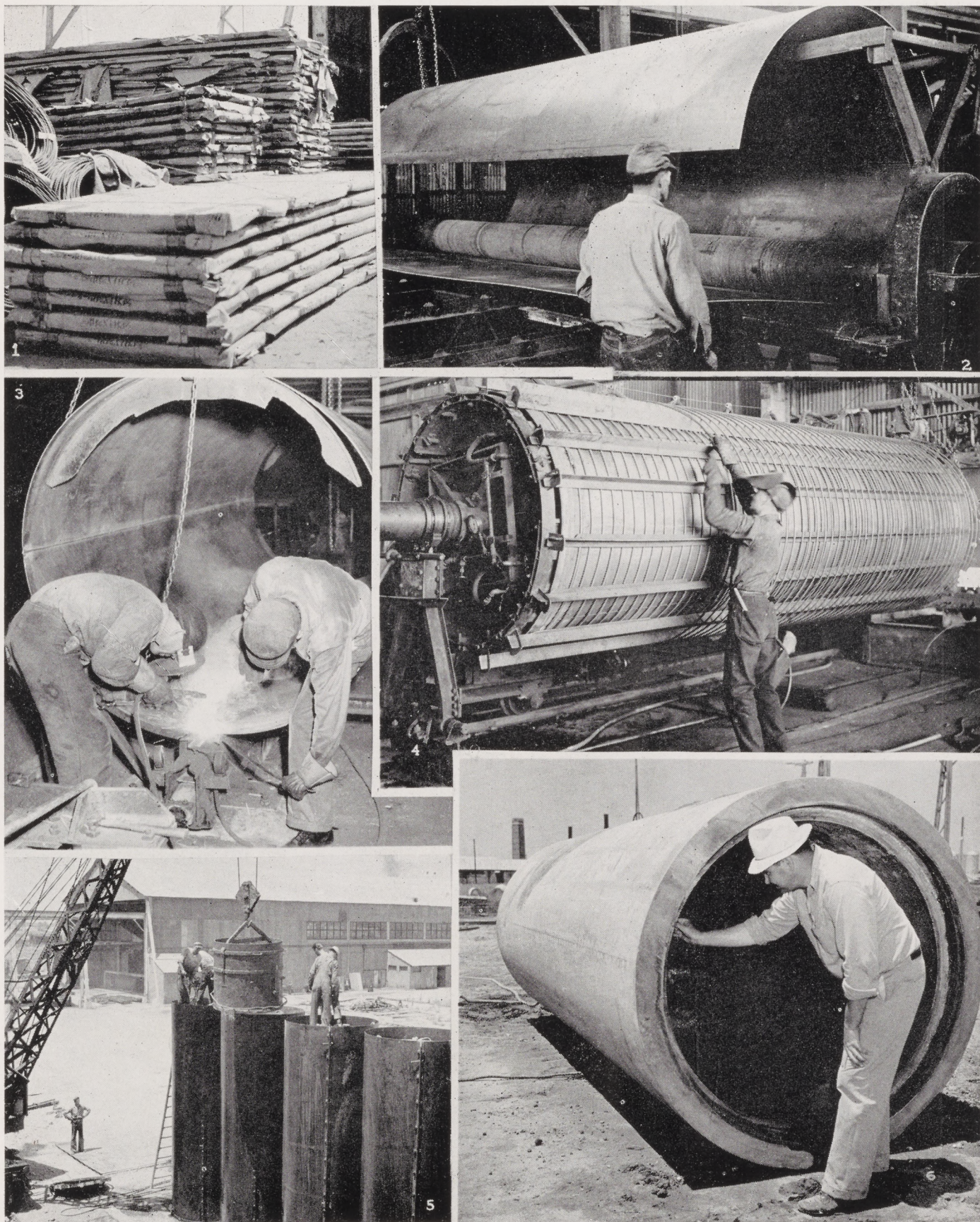
Mr. Joseph Jensen of Los Angeles, appointed by Mayor Bowron to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Director Nordlinger, became a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District on August 16. Director Jensen is the Chief Petroleum Engineer for the Tidewater Associated Oil Company, and for the past several years he has been Chairman of the Water and Power Resources Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

In a public statement following his appointment on the District's Board, Director Jensen said:

"The dangerous extent to which local underground water levels have been lowered and depleted during the past twenty years in our Los Angeles metropolitan area should make us all realize the price-less protection and water insurance provided by the Colorado River Aqueduct.

"Those of us connected with the oil industry have had occasion to become well acquainted with the underground water basins throughout the Southern California coastal plain. We know that these underground basins, during the past twenty years, have been lowered and in many instances dangerously depleted. Salt water from the ocean is affecting many wells.

"We know that we must not be fooled by a few comparatively wet years. These few seasons with a little more than average rainfall will not save us from the consequences of pumping out of our underground basins, year in and year out, more water than is going back into those basins."



These pictures of pipe fabrication for the Glendale-Burbank feeder tell their own story. Plate steel (1) is delivered in paper wrapping from eastern mills; heavy rollers (2) form it into cylinders; and the center seam is hand welded (3) to complete the circle. A steel cage of reinforcing bars is wrapped around the cylinder (4); which is then upended in a steel form (5) and the seven-inch wall of concrete is poured. M.W.D. Inspector takes a final look-see (6) before the completed pipe is sent to the trench.



By looking closely inside the area circled in white, you'll see a two-foot Chuckawalla cooling himself in a crack in the rocks near the Gene Dam on the main aqueduct.

## Contracts Awarded For Extension

At its meeting on August 16, the District's Board of Directors awarded contracts for the construction of extensions of the distribution system within the city limits of Burbank, Compton, and Torrance. All contracts will be built in accordance with Specifications No. 340.

Schedule No. 38SC, extending 0.36 mile into Burbank, was awarded to Werner and Webb for \$25,311.00. This line will be built of welded steel pipe with gunite coating and spun mortar lining, the line having an inside diameter of 31 inches.

Schedule No. 39A also awarded to Werner and Webb at that firm's bid price of \$20,648.25. Extending 0.58 mile into the city of Compton, this 16-inch diameter line will be constructed of asbestos cement pipe of a type which bears the trade name of "Transite".

Schedule 40A, extending 1.87 miles into Torrance, was awarded to Warren Southwest, Inc., for \$60,016.00. This line, which varies in diameter from 20 to 16 inches, will also be built of asbestos cement pipe.

The specifications under which the feeder extensions are being built provide that all work must be completed by January 31, 1941.

Still another ex-aqueducker who has answered the lure of the wild waves of Waikiki Beach is Ed Noon, who sailed early in August for Honolulu, where he will be employed by the War Department. Ed Noon was well known as a superintendent on the San Jacinto Tunnel.

### Aqueduct Temperatures

July 16 to August 15, 1940

	Max.	Min.
Gene Pumping Plant.....	121°	75°
Iron Mt. Pumping Plant.....	118°	67°
Eagle Mt. Pumping Plant.....	118°	70°
Banning .....	107°	48°
Lake Mathews .....	98°	51°

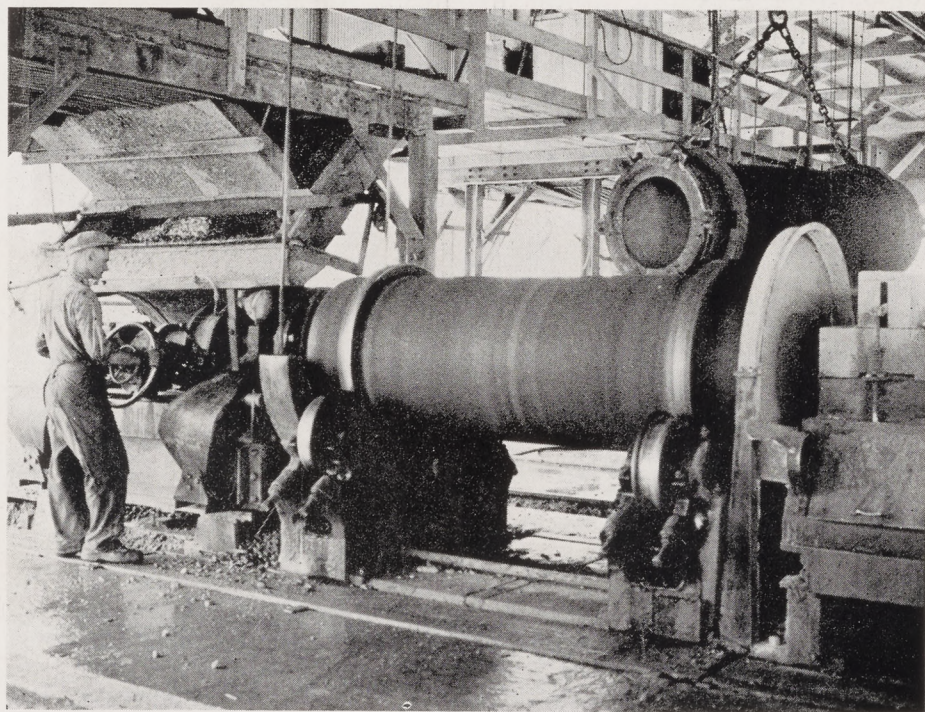
As predicted in an earlier issue of the NEWS, one of the social events of the Los Angeles season was the wedding on August 12 of Walter Parker, of the Mails and Files Division, and the former Miss June Scott of Azusa. Also as predicted, and as is proper of course, the bride rated two full columns in the Los Angeles papers, while Walt drew one line stating that the groom was "Mr. Walter Parker."

\* \* \*

The following note arrived by carrier pigeon from the Hayfield Pumping Plant:

"Warnin' to youse city slickers about desert heat! For instance, what well known M.W.D. engineer recently forgot his pants at Hayfield and then had to phone frantically all over the line and have two brass hats deliver same pants via special car before he could again appear in civilization?"

The note then blurs off to something about "Rockie".



A new wrinkle as far as the aqueduct is concerned; concrete pipe being centrifugally cast for use on the waste water line from the softening and filtration plant.

# NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



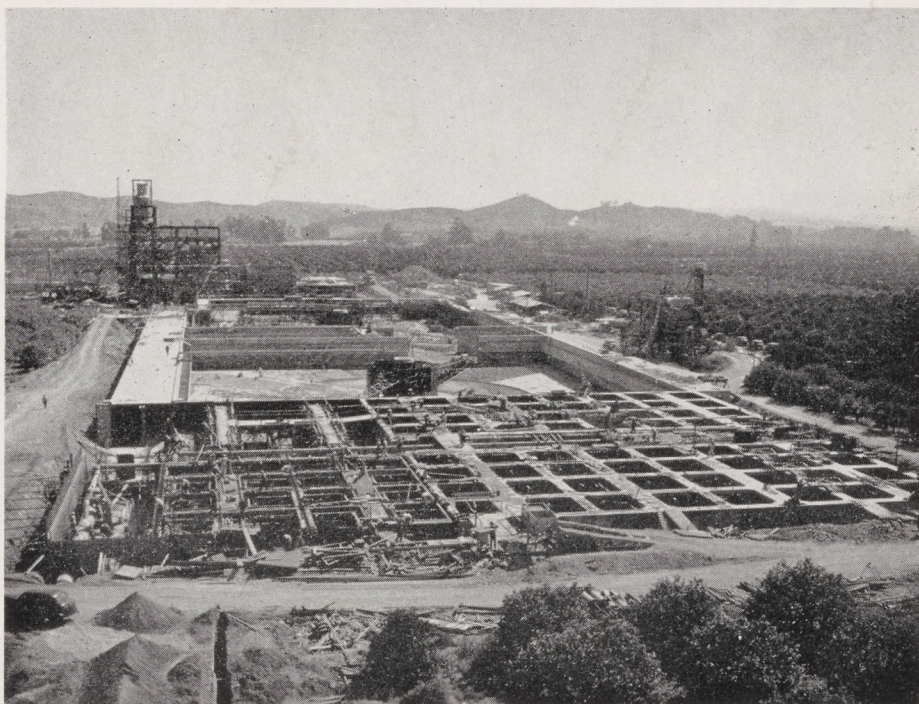
This is what happened when the photo man went hog wild and mugged people all over the place in connection with Pumping Plant passes. No snickering from the back row, please, because your boss is probably in this handsome group. Left to right, and top to bottom: 1—General Manager Weymouth; 16—Bob Allen; 4—Don Kinsey; 6—Walt Neale; 37—Ralph Davis; 5—Tom Walsh; 7—L. V. Branch; 81—Gene Falkenburg; 3—J. M. Gaylord; 8—C. C. Elder; 2—Julian Hinds; 21—T. F. Robertson; 12—J. M. Luney; 50—Ralph Stringfellow; 18—E. W. Rockwell; 14—S. A. Joseph; 15—A. W. McKinlay; 75—Bill Croden; 19—Geo. LeBaron; 51—Jack Schweer; 78—J. H. Mudgett; 10—Ira Pontius; 99—Ralph Zook; 9—R. M. Peabody; 13—Charlie Brandt.

## Dirt Flying On Many Distribution System Jobs

Putting on a driving finish toward the day when softened and filtered Colorado River water will be made available to the cities of the Metropolitan Water District, construction crews are now busily engaged on various sections of the Distribution System.

Out near La Verne, the Griffith Company and its numerous sub-contractors have approximately 370 men employed on the construction of the water softening and filtration plant. As of the week ending August 24 the progress reports on this job indicated that all earthwork is now 90 per cent completed, that the placing of concrete and reinforcing steel is 76 per cent completed, and that the installation of equipment is approximately 62 per cent completed.

An August 13, the United Concrete Pipe Corporation began the laying of pipe in the 22-mile line which will carry waste water away from the softening and filtration plant. Fabrication of the centrifugally cast concrete pipe for this line has been in progress for a number of weeks at the contractor's Baldwin Park plant, and as of August 24, a total of 4,119 linear feet of pipe had been placed in the trench. The District has established a field office at Covina in



A general view of the Softening and Filtration plant showing the filter beds in the immediate foreground, then the settling basins, and the headhouse in the left rear.

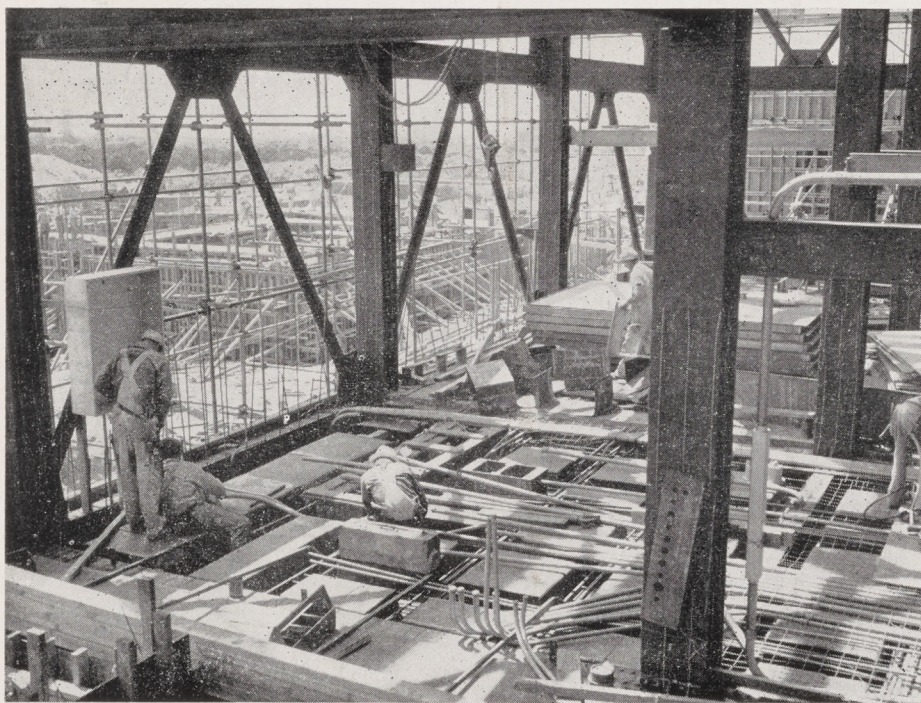
connection with the construction of this line, and N. F. "Nick" Crossley is Senior Inspector for the M.W.D. on the pipe laying job.

Farther west, the first pipe on the Glendale-Burbank feeder (a continuation of which will also deliver water to Beverly Hills and Santa Monica) was

placed on August 6. This schedule (No. 29P) consists of approximately 12,000 feet of reinforced precast concrete pipe, and is being constructed by the American Concrete and Steel Pipe Company. Fabrication of the pipe for this line is underway in the contractor's Southgate plant—see picture story on page 5. As of August 24, the contractor had placed 2,042 linear feet of pipe in the field. Approximately 60 men are employed in the plant on the pipe fabrication and 45 men in the field placing the pipe. Hugh Jones is the senior District representative on this job.

At the point where the Santa Monica feeder crosses the new Cahuenga Freeway, construction crews have completed the placing of the 780 feet of steel pipe which will carry aqueduct water under the new highway. Just west of this crossing, the J. F. Shea Co. crews have excavated a total of 2,089 feet of the Hollywood Tunnel. This represents about 56 per cent of the excavation for the 7-foot diameter tunnel. Work is progressing on a three-shift basis, with the crews averaging about 30 feet per day for the two headings.

Other construction work on the distribution system is expected to be into the field stage during the early part of September. Getting ready for the day when these lines will be completed, a total of 66,000 acre-feet of water has already been placed in Lake Mathews in connection with testing and conditioning of the big terminal reservoir.



Installation of electrical conduits in the operating floor of the headhouse at the Softening and Filtration plant.